

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-10, 18-33 and 41-46 are rejected as either being anticipated by or unpatentable over Van Halteren et al (US 5,757,947, hereinafter Van Halteren '947) or Van Halteren et al. (US 5,809,158, hereinafter Van Halteren '158) as set forth in the Office action. Claims 11-17 and 34-40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 47-58 are newly added.

The action indicates that claims 11-17 and 34-40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 47-52 correspond to claims 12-17 and claims 53-58 correspond to claims 35-40, respectively. As such, the applicants submit these claims are allowable, and such action is requested.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-10, 18-33 and 41-46 as being anticipated by or unpatentable over Van Halteren '947 or Van Halteren '158, the applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

By this response, claims 1, 18, 28 and 41 are amended. It is made clear by these amendments that the closed loop or elliptical-like spring recited in the claims provides motion in a first direction and motion in a second direction different from the first direction. For example, in the exemplary embodiments described in the application the first direction and the second direction may be opposite such that movement of the joined armature in the first direction causes movement of the joined diaphragm in an opposite direction. The result is substantially balanced motion.

Each of Van Halteren '947 and Van Halteren '158 teach a strap, not a closed loop or elliptical spring. The strap may be formed with an aperture (portion 19 of Van Halteren '947) or a "C" shaped portion (19a Van Halteren '158) that couples the strap to the armature. The strap then couples the armature and the diaphragm. The entire strap moves in a single direction and is entirely incapable of providing motion in a first direction and motion in a second direction, different than the first direction. As such, neither Van Halteren '947 nor Van Halteren '158 can anticipate or render obvious claims 1, 18, 28 or 41. These claims,

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as amended, are allowable as are the claims dependent thereon over Van Halteren '947 and/or Van Halteren '158.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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